

**Community Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes
April 16, 2009**

The Community Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Hilton North Hotel in Indianapolis on April 16, 2009.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the Community Relations Committee were present: Gail Bardach, Sally Blankenship, Kathleen Lang, David Najjar, Jeffrey Thode, Joseph Trout, H.L. Whitis, and Robert Altice, chair.
2. **Staff assistance.** Jenny Bauer and Kathryn Dolan provided staff assistance to the Committee.
3. **Guests.** Judge Thomas Alevisos of LaPorte Superior Court and Judge Lorenzo Arredondo of Lake Circuit Court attended the meeting as guests.
4. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the February 2009 meeting were approved.
5. **Fire Brigade Issue.** Judge Altice explained that Judge Thomas Alevisos of LaPorte Superior Court requested to discuss a Fire Brigade issue with the committee. Judge Alevisos explained his issue to the committee and asked for their suggestions on ways to handle it. The committee held a confidential discussion of the issues and offered several options of ways for Judge Alivisos to move forward in the case.
6. **Speaker's Bureau Project.** Jenny Bauer reported that the Speaker's Bureau website is complete and ready to be launched. She thanked Justin Harter of State Court Administration for his assistance with preparing the website for the speakers bureau. Kathryn Dolan prepared a press release to announce the launching of the Speakers Bureau and will send that to press outlets. Ms. Bauer also reported to the committee that she will send out another invitation to judges to attract more volunteers for the Speakers Bureau after the announcement is made. She said she hopes more judges will join the Bureau after they see the website and press release.
7. **STAD's Public Access Committee.** Kathryn Dolan reported that the Public Access Committee requested that the Community Relations Committee review the trial court "quick facts" sheet. Ms. Dolan distributed copies of the sheet and asked the committee to send her suggestions on changes or additions to the document.
8. **IJA Community Relations Awards.** Jenny Bauer reported to the committee that she will send out information on nominations for the IJA Community Relations

awards in June. Kathryn Dolan will prepare a press release for the nominations. Ms. Bauer also informed the committee that the awards will be handed out during the IJA's annual meeting in French Lick on September 17th.

9. **Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Community Relations Committee will be August 21st at 1:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Staff Attorney
Indiana Judicial Center